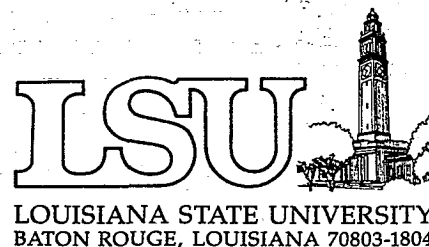


WILLIAM A. PRYOR, Ph.D.
Boyd Professor
Departments of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Chairman of Environmental Toxicology
504/388-2063, -2060, -2064



January 19, 1984

Dr. Robert C. Hockett
Research Director
The Council for Tobacco Research U.S.A., Inc.
110 East 59th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Bob,

The Third Winter Gordon Conference on "Oxy-Radicals in Biology and Medicine" will be held in Santa Barbara, California, February 10-15, 1985. The first two meetings of this Gordon Conference have been enormously successful; each was oversubscribed by more than 100%, although the Gordon Conference Committee allowed us to expand our attendance list to 170 persons, the largest Gordon Conference that is allowed. The speakers at our conference have included internationally famous scientists such as Dr. Bruce Ames, Dr. I. Fridovich, Dr. Bengt Samuelsson, and many others. There are few topics in the current biochemical and medical research fields that excite the interest that is true of oxygen-radicals. Recent developments in prostaglandins and leukotrienes, research in the metabolism of xenobiotics, and research in superoxide and superoxide dismutases have shown the relationship of oxy-radicals to a wide variety of human conditions both in health and disease.

The Third Gordon Conference in this series is now being organized and, as Chairman of the Organizing Committee, I am writing to ask if your organization can make a contribution to the conference. Contributions of as little as \$500 or as much as \$5000 are very badly needed to support the travel and other expenses of the outstanding international scientists that we will invite to attend this conference and present their research results.

Rationale:

Biological processes mediated by reactive species of oxygen are being increasingly recognized by researchers as important factors in disease and aging. Oxygen radical damage has, for example, been implicated in inflammation, arthritis, adult respiratory-distress syndrome, myocardial infarction, pulmonary dysfunction in hemodialyzed patients, Purtscher's syndrome, Bloom's syndrome, Systemic Lupis Erythematosus, cataract formation, mutagenicity and carcinogenicity, and others. While there has not yet been adequate experimental data to support the involvement of oxygen radicals in all of these conditions, the increasing interest of many scientists in the problem warrants a conference designed to stimulate new research, heighten awareness of recent discoveries in basic research, and focus attention on their implications for human health.

Much of the recent progress in research concerning the role of oxygen radicals in disease has been due to the discovery and utilization of antioxidant substances. Since the discovery in 1965 by McCord and Fridovich that the plasma protein, erythrocyte, functions to dismutate the superoxide anion radical, this radical and other radicals and products derived from it have received a great deal of attention. The study of oxygen radical reactions in simple chemical and biochemical systems has defined the initiation, propagation, and termination reactions of these species, and this understanding has suggested oxygen radical involvement in a remarkably diverse and extensive array of pathological states. Dramatic therapeutic effects of antioxidant substances, like vitamin E and selenium, in clinical settings have provided further support for the involvement of oxygen radicals in certain disease conditions. Recent research results of chemists, biologists, clinicians and epidemiologists have created a new multidisciplinary field considered by some to be one of the most exciting areas of biological research. As with most research, progress is frequently accelerated by bringing together the leaders in the field with a select audience to present the most recent research findings and discuss their implications. The Gordon Research Conferences permit detailed discussions of unpublished observations among chemists, biochemists, cell biologists and clinicians which can lead to rapid and effective delineation of critical problem areas in this field, and, hopefully, produce important new leads.

The quality of a meeting such as a Gordon Research Conference depends largely on attracting mature and outstanding speakers and session chairman who are able to present new material and to stimulate discussion among the participants. We have already attracted significant numbers of leaders in the field to present their findings and discuss issues critical for an understanding of the role of oxygen and oxygen radicals both in normal and in pathological conditions. Clinical trials are ongoing at this moment and the organizers felt that a major emphasis of this conference should concern the basic chemistry and biochemistry of oxygen radicals and their effects in cellular systems. By understanding fundamental processes whereby oxygen radicals are generated in vivo, we will be in a much better position to understand how to regulate them and how to interfere with their pathological consequences.

The program sessions planned for this conference are listed below.

1. Chemistry and Biochemistry of Oxygen Radicals
2. Clinical Aspects of Oxy-Radical Reactions
3. Toxin-mediated Reactions
4. Prostaglandins
5. Superoxide and Superoxide Dismutases
6. Quinone and Related Drugs
7. Cellular Targets and Co-Oxidation
8. Cancer
9. Aging

Summary:

We are seeking to identify those topics for discussion which are at the frontier of this field, and the leading persons are being recruited for participation. The extent to which we will be successful in bringing them all together will depend upon our ability to raise the necessary funds. I hope your institution will be able to make a contribution that will insure the success of this meeting. Please make your check payable to myself in care of the Gordon Research Conference, or have the check made out to Gordon Research Conference "Oxy-Radicals in Biology and Medicine." Checks can be sent either to me at the letterhead address, or to Dr. Alexander Cruikshank, Chairman, Gordon Research Conferences, Pastore Chemical Laboratory, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881. In the latter case, please send a copy of your correspondence to me and advise Dr. Cruikshank that the check is for the 1985 "Oxy-Radicals" Winter Gordon Conference.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Bill

William A. Pryor
Chairman, 1985 Gordon Conference
Organizing Committee

Organizing Committee:

Anne Autor (Co-Chairperson)
Pulmonary Research Laboratory
University of British Columbia

Bruce Ames
Department of Biochemistry
University of California(Berkeley)

Steven Aust
Department of Biochemistry
Michigan State University

Christopher S. Foote
Department of Chemistry
University of California-Los Angeles

Paul Hochstein
Director, Institute for Toxicology
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Director of Membrane Bioenergetics
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Trevor Slater
Dean
Brunel University
Department of Biochemistry